

# **ETHIOPIC FONTS FOR ENGLISH SPEAKERS**

## **BOOK 1 (FOR BEGINNERS)**

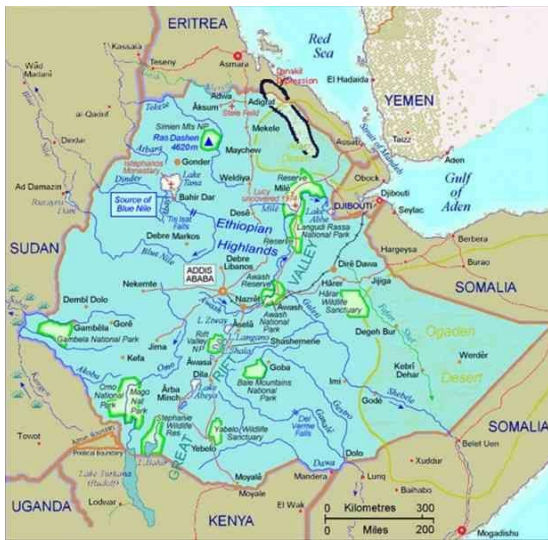
**ANDU ALEM TEFERA**

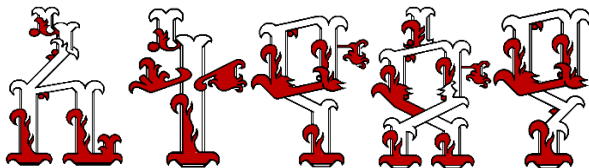
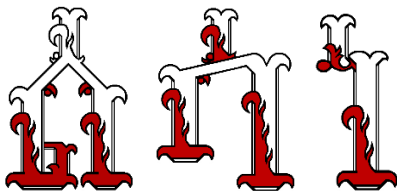
**CA, USA 2019**



# የኢትዮጵያ መልክዓ ምድር

(ከኢንተርኔት የተገኘ)





ሆሄያትን ማስተማሪያ

አንዲት ልግ ተፈራ

FOR ETHIOPIC FONTS  
LEARNERS

ይሄን መጽሐፍ ያዘጋጀሁት፤ ካሊፎርንያ፣ በሳንታ ክላራ  
አውራጃ፣ በሳንቻኤ ከተማ በሚገኘው በቅዱስ ገብርኤል ራማ  
የኢትዮጵያ ኦርቶዶክስ ተዋህዶ ቤተክርስቲያን ውስጥ  
በሚገኙት ክፍሎች የኢትዮጵያን ፊደላት ለሚያጠኑ ወጣቶች  
ማስተማሪያ ይረዳ ዘንድ ነው። በዚህ የኢትዮጵያ ፊደላትን  
ማስተማር ሂደት፤ ለረጅም ጊዜ ደከማኝ ሳይል፤ የራሱን ጊዜና  
ቁሳቁስ በነፃ በማቅረብ፤ ሳይታክት ጥረት ላደረገው ለአቶ  
መክብብ ሲያምረኝ፤ ከፍ ያለ ምስጋና አቀርብለታለሁ። ከሱ  
ጋር አብረው ትምህርት ቤቱን ከፍተው በመሥራትና ጥረቱን  
ቀድመው ቀርበው ለማስፋፋት በዚሁ ትምህርት ቤት  
የተሰለፉትን የተወሰኑ ቤተሰቦች አመሰግናቸዋለሁ።

አንዱ ዓለም ተፈራ

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to learning Ethiopian alphabets. Ethiopic is the font used for writing Ethiopian languages. Ethiopic has one very big difference from Latin writing and reading.

Every Ethiopic letter has one and only one sound. Wherever it is placed in a word, whatever comes before or after it, it always has one and only one sound. Each alphabet stands by itself. Instead of separate vowels, extensions are added on the base font to create a family of fonts.

In English, vowels we use have different sounds in where they are used. The long and short forms, when combined with other vowels, and the like. To help students learn Ethiopic, the vowels used in the analogy here are always each only for one sound.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| INTRODUCTION                   | 1  |
| TABLE OF CONTENTS              | 2  |
| THE ALPHABETES                 | 4  |
| Additional Letters and Numbers | 6  |
| PUNCTUATIONS                   | 7  |
| GENERAL NOTES                  |    |
| LESSON 1 ሰ ሸ ከ ኸ ሰ ሸ           | 8  |
| LESSON 2 ዘ ዠ አ ለ               | 22 |
| LESSON 3 ደ ደ ጀ ጸ ጸ             | 29 |
| LESSON 4 ጠ ጪ ሐ                 | 35 |
| LESSON 5 ሀ ሠ                   | 40 |
| LESSON 6 ዐ ፀ ወ መ               | 43 |
| LESSON 7 ተ ቸ ነ ኘ ኘ             | 52 |
| LESSON 8 ገ ኘ ፐ ቀ ቆ የ           | 59 |
| LESSON 9 ረ ረ                   | 65 |

| #   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8  |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
|     | ‘ | u | i | a | e |   | o | ua |
| h   | ሀ | ሁ | ሂ | ሃ | ሄ | ህ | ሆ |    |
| l   | ለ | ሉ | ሊ | ላ | ሌ | ል | ሎ | ሊ  |
| H   | ሐ | ሑ | ሒ | ሓ | ሔ | ሕ | ሐ |    |
| m   | መ | ሙ | ሚ | ማ | ሜ | ም | ሞ | ሚ  |
| (s) | ሠ | ሡ | ሢ | ሣ | ሤ | ሥ | ሦ | ሢ  |
| r   | ረ | ሩ | ሪ | ራ | ሪ | ር | ሮ | ሯ  |
| s   | ሰ | ሱ | ሲ | ሳ | ሴ | ሰ | ሱ | ሲ  |
| sh  | ሸ | ሹ | ሺ | ሻ | ሼ | ሸ | ሹ | ሺ  |
| q   | ቀ | ቁ | ቂ | ቃ | ቄ | ቅ | ቆ | ቇ  |
| Q   | ቐ | ቑ | ቒ | ቓ | ቔ | ቐ | ቑ | ቒ  |
| b   | በ | ቡ | ቢ | ባ | ቤ | ብ | ቦ | ቧ  |
| v   | ቨ | ቩ | ቪ | ቫ | ቬ | ቭ | ቯ | ቪ  |
| t   | ተ | ቱ | ቲ | ታ | ቲ | ት | ቶ | ታ  |
| ch  | ቸ | ቹ | ቺ | ቻ | ቼ | ች | ቸ | ቺ  |
| H   | ኀ | ኁ | ኂ | ኃ | ኄ | ኅ | ኆ | ኃ  |
| n   | ነ | ኑ | ኒ | ና | ኔ | ን | ኖ | ና  |
| N   | ኘ | ኙ | ኚ | ኛ | ኜ | ኝ | ኞ | ኚ  |
| a   | አ | ሉ | ሊ | አ | ኤ | እ | አ |    |

| #   | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8  |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
|     | ‘ | u | i | a | e |   | o | ua |
| k   | ከ | ኩ | ኪ | ካ | ኬ | ኸ | ኾ | ካ  |
| H   | ኸ | ኹ | ኺ | ኻ | ኼ | ኽ | ኾ | ኹ  |
| A   | ዐ | ዑ | ዒ | ዓ | ዔ | ዕ | ዖ |    |
| w   | ወ | ዉ | ደ | ዐ | ዑ | ዒ | ዓ |    |
| z   | ዘ | ዙ | ዚ | ዛ | ዞ | ዟ | ዠ | ዡ  |
| Z   | ዘ | ዙ | ዚ | ዛ | ዞ | ዟ | ዠ | ዡ  |
| y   | የ | ዩ | ዪ | ያ | ዬ | ደ | ዦ | ዩ  |
| d   | ደ | ዱ | ዲ | ዳ | ዴ | ድ | ዶ | ዷ  |
| D   | ደ | ዱ | ዲ | ዳ | ዴ | ድ | ዶ | ዷ  |
| j   | ጆ | ጇ | ገ | ጉ | ጊ | ጋ | ጌ | ግ  |
| g   | ገ | ጉ | ጊ | ጋ | ጌ | ግ | ጏ | ጐ  |
| G   | ገ | ጉ | ጊ | ጋ | ጌ | ግ | ጏ | ጐ  |
| T   | ጠ | ጡ | ጢ | ጣ | ጤ | ጥ | ጦ | ጧ  |
| CH  | ጨ | ጨ | ጨ | ጨ | ጨ | ጨ | ጨ | ጨ  |
| P   | ጸ | ጹ | ጺ | ጻ | ጼ | ጽ | ጾ | ጿ  |
| S   | ጸ | ጹ | ጺ | ጻ | ጼ | ጽ | ጾ | ጿ  |
| (S) | ፀ | ፁ | ፊ | ፋ | ፅ | ፈ | ፇ |    |
| f   | ፈ | ፋ | ፊ | ፋ | ፅ | ፈ | ፇ | ፈ  |
| p   | ፐ | ፑ | ፒ | ፓ | ፔ | ፕ | ፖ | ፘ  |



# ADDITIONAL LETTERS

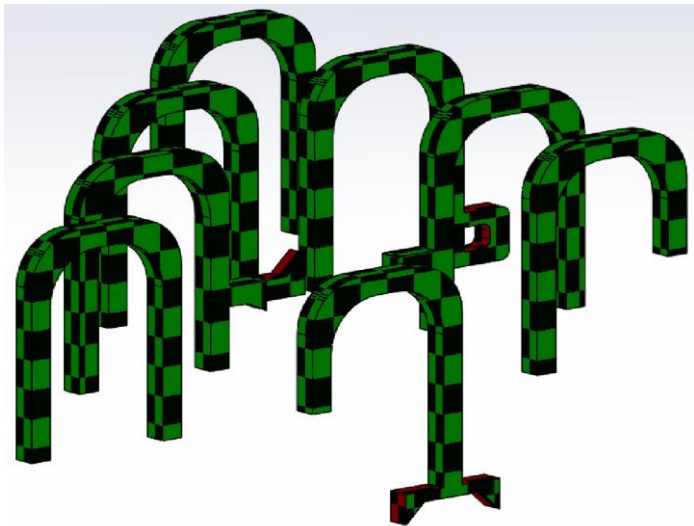
|     | ‘ | i | a | e |   |
|-----|---|---|---|---|---|
| qw  | ቄ | ቅ | ቆ | ቇ | ቈ |
| Qw  | ቄ | ቅ | ቆ | ቇ | ቈ |
| Hw  | ኀ | ኁ | ኂ | ኃ | ኄ |
| kw  | ከ | ኩ | ኪ | ካ | ኬ |
| kxw | ኸ | ኹ | ኺ | ኻ | ኼ |
| gw  | ጐ | ጑ | ጒ | ጓ | ጔ |
| Gw  | ጐ | ጑ |   | ጓ | ጔ |

These three letters are also used in writing  
Ethiopic writing.

አ ሄ ማ

Ethiopic Number writing

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |     |      |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|------|
| ፩  | ፪  | ፫  | ፬  | ፭  | ፮  | ፯  | ፰  | ፱   | ፲    |
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9   | 10   |
| ፳  | ፳፱ | ፴፱ | ፵፱ | ፶፱ | ፷፱ | ፸፱ | ፹፱ | ፺፱  | ፻፱   |
| 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | 1000 |



## PUNCTUATION MARKS

**. Emphasize      : Space between words**

**;(%) coma      ; semi-colon**

**:- colon      # period/full stop**

**⋮ \_\_\_\_\_ ⋮ \_\_\_\_\_**

## GENERAL NOTE:

When we use **e** here, it is the sound the vowel makes when it exists in:

bet, get, met, let, net, pet

For **a**: bat, fat, mat, rat, sat

For **u**: put, bull, bully, pull, push

For **i**: big, bill, bit, hill, him,

For **o**: rod, stock, drop, pop, crop

- For the **first letter** in the family of the alphabet, an apostrophe is used.
- When you see **b'** or **g'** the sounds the letters b and g represent what we hear in: **but** and **gut**,
- The **sixth letter** is left alone for the constant letter sound. Like m, k, l, s, d, b, n, r, t, . . .

There are 37 letters in the Ethiopic alphabet. These 37 letters, each has a family of 7 and some of them have a family of 8 members. Following are the lessons for studying Ethiopic Fonts.

# LESSON 1

The first group of letters you are going to study are similar two-legged letters.

በ    ቤ    ከ    ኸ    ሰ    ሸ

The first one is the letter ( b ). The Ethiopic letter looks like an upside U. Doesn't it?

The family members of the letter **b** are written as:

|           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| <b>b1</b> | <b>b2</b> | <b>b3</b> | <b>b4</b> | <b>b5</b> | <b>b6</b> | <b>b7</b> |
| <b>b'</b> | <b>bu</b> | <b>bi</b> | <b>ba</b> | <b>be</b> | <b>b</b>  | <b>bo</b> |

The numbers here indicate the order in which each family member of b exists in the Ethiopic alphabet table.

As stated in the previous pages, the first letter b, which is b1 and also b' makes the sound of the first syllable in **but**.

The second family member of b, which is b2, bu, sounds like the first syllable in **bull**.

The third family member of b, which is b3, bi, sounds like the first syllable in **big**.

The fourth family member of b, which is b4, ba, sounds like the first syllable in **bat**.

The fifth family member of b, which is b5, be, sounds like the first syllable in **bet**.

The sixth family member of b, which is b6, b, sounds like the first syllable in **black**.

The seventh family member of b, which is b7, bo, sounds like the first syllable in **boy**.

Now you have the basics in your hand, the most important thing left is:

**PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.**

**Dad and Mom will help a lot! Use them.**

Let us start with the letter b.

Please read the following family members of b in their order.

**b'    bu    bi    ba    be    b    bo**  
**(but) (bull) (big) (bat) (bet) (black) (boy)**

Good job. Let us go ahead and do the five associates of b.

These are v, k, H, s, and sh. These letters are chosen for their similarity in their shape with the Ethiopic letter that sounds like **b**.

Let us follow our practice with b, in the following sounds. It follows the same pattern as **b** did earlier.

**v'    vu    vi    va    ve    v    vo**

**verse rendevu tv vast**

You did great with the first two Ethiopic alphabets. Let us do the third one.

**k'    ku    ki    ka    ke    k    ko**

The fourth one is:

**H'    Hu    Hi    Ha    He    H    Ho**

Fifth

**s'    su    si    sa    se    s    so**

Following **s** will be **sh**. This represents the sound of the first syllabus in **sh**are.

Let us practice the sounds of the **sh** family.

**sh' shu shi sha she sh sho**

We stopped using the numbers to help us know the placement of each letter. Great, we are making good progress!

Before we go on with the rest of the Ethiopic alphabets, let us associate them with their counter parts in Ethiopic.

Whenever you need help. Use pages 4,5 & 6



The sound of the letter b is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ቤ.

Here are the family members of ቤ.

ቤ ብ ቢ ባ ቤ ብ ቦ

Here the first letter ቤ is the b1 and b' we had  
seen earlier.

b1, b' = ቤ      b2, bu = ብ

b3, bi = ቢ      b4, ba = ባ

b5, be = ቤ      b6, b = ብ

b7, bo = ቦ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ቤ

ቤብ ባባ ብብ ብብ ብብ ቤቤ

The sound of the letter y is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ኧ.

Here are the family members of ኧ.

ኧ ኧሁ ኧሊ ኧላ ኧፅ ኧሽ ኧሾ

Here the first letter ኧ is the y1 and y' we had  
seen earlier.

v1, v' = ኧ                      v2, vu = ኧሁ

v3, vi = ኧሊ                      v4, va = ኧላ

v5, ve = ኧፅ                      v6, v = ኧሽ

v7, vo = ኧሾ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ኧ  
and ቢ

ኧኧ ኧሁ ኧሊ ኧላ ቢኧ ቢኧፅ ኧሽኧ

The sound of the letter k is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ከ.

Here are the family members of ከ.

ከ ከ፡ ከፌ ከ ከፊ ከ ከ።

Here the first letter ከ is the k1 and k' we had  
seen earlier.

k1, k' = ከ      k2, ku = ከ፡

k3, ki = ከፌ      k4, ka = ከ

k5, ke = ከፊ      k6, k = ከ።

k7, ko = ከ፡፡

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ከ  
ኸ and ቡ

ከከ፡ ከከ ከከ ከቡ ከከ ከቡ ከቡቡ

Here are the family members of ኸ.

ኸ ኸ፡ ኸፌ ኸፍ ኸፎ ኸ ኸ

This is the third **H** sound letter. It is added here to help you understand its existence when you start reading Ethiopic and come across it. For now, it is represented as H.

Here the first letter ኸ is the H1 and H' we had seen earlier.

H1, H' = ኸ

H2, Hu = ኸ፡

H3, Hi = ኸፌ

H4, Ha = ኸፍ

H5, He = ኸፎ

H6, H = ኸ

H7, Ho = ኸ

**Remember this same sound as ሀ ሐ and ገ. We will meet these three later.**

The sound of the letter s is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ሰ.

Here are the family members of ሰ.

ሰ ሰፋ ሰረ ሰገ ሰቤ ሰፍ ሰፊ

Here the first letter ሰ is the s1 and s' we had  
seen earlier.

s1, s' = ሰ                      s2, su = ሰፋ

s3, si = ሰረ                      s4, sa = ሰገ

s5, se = ሰቤ                      s6, s = ሰፍ

s7, so = ሰፊ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ሰ ኸ ከ ሸ  
and ሰ

ሰፋ ሰገ ሰረ ሰቤ ሰፍ ሰፊ ሰፋ ሰገ ሰረ ሰቤ ሰፍ ሰፊ

The sound of the letter sh is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ሸ.

Here are the family members of ሸ.

ሸ ሸ፣ ሸ፡ ሸ፡ ሸ፡ ሸ፡ ሸ ሸ

Here the first letter ሸ is the sh1 and sh' we had  
seen earlier.

sh1, sh' = ሸ sh2, shu = ሸ፣

sh3, shi = ሸ፡ sh4, sha = ሸ፡

sh5, she = ሸ፡ sh6, sh = ሸ

sh7, sho = ሸ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ሸ ሰ ሸ ከ  
ሸ and ሰ

ሸ፣ ሸ፡ ሸ-ሰ፡ ሸ፡ ሸ፡ ሸከ፡

Here the teacher, mom and dad other family members and friends will give you more practice to write useable words in Ethiopic alphabets:

በ    ቨ    ከ    ኸ    ሰ    ሸ

በሶ                      በሰበሰ                      ሸብሸቦ

ከሰ                      በኪሶ                      ከበበ

ሶሶ                      ሸኸሸኸ                      ሰበሰበ

Write the following in Ethiopic

b'so

b's'b's'

sus

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Copy the words (written in Ethiopic ) on page 19 here.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Repeat the last three words you wrote on page 19 here

\_\_\_\_\_



You studied six of the Ethiopic alphabets. Write them here and read them out loud to yourself.

b'        \_\_\_\_\_        ( but )

v'        \_\_\_\_\_        ( vernacular )

k'        \_\_\_\_\_        ( kern )

H'        \_\_\_\_\_        ( heard )

s'        \_\_\_\_\_        ( sun )

sh'        \_\_\_\_\_        ( share )

## LESSON 2

The second group of letters we are going to study are the same two-legged letters but a little bit different than what we met in **LESSON 1**.

**ʙ Ƶ ʒ ʌ**

These have the following corresponding sound with the Latin alphabets.

**ʙ with z**

**Ƶ with Z**

**ʒ with a**

**ʌ with l**

We are going to write these four letters with their family members as follows:

Here are the family members of **ዘ**.

**ዘ ዙ ዚ ዛ ዞ ዝ ዠ**

Here the first letter **ዘ** is the **z1** and **z'** we had seen earlier.

**z1, z' = ዘ    z2, zu = ዙ    z3, zi = ዚ**  
**z4, za = ዛ    z5, ze = ዞ    z6, z = ዝ**  
**z7, zo = ዠ**

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet **ዘ**

**ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሸ and ሰ**

**ዘዙ ዘብ በዘበዘ በዛ ዛበ ሺዛ ብዙ**

Here are the family members of ዠ.

ዡ ዢ ዣ ዤ ዦ ዧ የ

Here the first letter ዡ is the Z1 and Z' we had seen earlier.

Z1, Z' = ዡ Z2, Zu = ዢ Z3, Zi = ዣ  
Z4, Za = ዤ Z5, Ze = ዦ Z6, Z = ዧ  
Z7, Zo = የ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ዡ ዢ  
ዣ ዤ ዦ ዧ የ and ዩ

ዡዢ ዡዣ ዡዤ ዡዦ ዡዧ ዡየ

Here are the family members of ኢ.

ኣ ኣ ኢ ኣ ኤ ኦ ኦ

\*ኣ is unique in Ethiopic. It is the vowel that indicates what sound comes with every letter. And it does not have its own letter. First the sound for the first letter is the same as the 4<sup>th</sup> letter. Second, when ኣ comes after the sixth family member of another letter, it losses itself in the letter it follows making it be its 4<sup>th</sup> member letter.

(none) = ኣ u = ኣ i = ኢ a = ኣ

e = ኤ E = ኦ o = ኦ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ኣ ዠ ዡ  
ሸ ሰ ሸ ከ ሸ and ቦ

ኣኣ ኣበበ ኣበባ ኣባ

Here are the family members of ለ.

ለ ሉ ሊ ላ ሌ ል ሎ

Here the first letter ለ is the l1 and l' we had seen earlier.

l1, l' = ለ    l2, lu = ሉ    l3, li = ሊ

l4, la = ላ    l5, le = ሌ    l6, l = ል

l7, lo = ሎ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ለ ኣ ዠ ዡ ዢ ዣ ዤ ዦ ዧ የ ዩ ደ ደፊ ደፋ ደፈ ደፋፊ ደፋፋ ደፋፈ ደፋፋፈ ደፋፋፋ ደፋፋፋፋ and በ

ለሉ ኣለ ኣለበ ላባ

ለበሰ ልብሰ ዘለዘለ ዛላ

ለሽ ልኡል ላኪ ሉከ

You just finished the second set of two-legged letters with a little bit of difference from the first set!

This is how they sound.

z'       \_\_\_\_\_       ( **thus** )

Z'       \_\_\_\_\_       ( pleasure )

a       \_\_\_\_\_       ( **as** )

l'       \_\_\_\_\_       ( alert )

write these in Ethiopic

l'zb

l'za

al'b'

l-ul

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Write the following in Latin alphabet

በሳ

\_\_\_\_\_

አለበ

\_\_\_\_\_

ብኣድ

\_\_\_\_\_

ዘቡ

\_\_\_\_\_

አዛባ

\_\_\_\_\_

አለዘበ

\_\_\_\_\_

And the following in Ethiopic

k's'k's'

\_\_\_\_\_

a'b's'

\_\_\_\_\_

a'b'b'ch

\_\_\_\_\_



# LESSON 3

The third set of Ethiopic letters to study are very different two-legged letters.

ደ ድ ጀ ጸ ጳ

Here are the family members of ደ.

ደ ድ ጀ ጸ ጳ ዴ ዶ

The sound of the letter d is the sound of the Ethiopic letter ደ. Here the first letter ደ is the d1 and d' we had seen earlier.

d1, d' = ደ d2, du = ድ d3, di = ጀ  
d4, da = ጸ d5, de = ጳ d6, d = ዴ d7,  
do = ዶ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ደ ለ አ ዠ  
ዘ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሽ and በ

ደድ ድድ ደበበ ከዳ ድብ ሸዳ ዶላ

Here are the family members of ደ.

ደ ደፑ ደፋ ደፋፋ ደፊ ደፋፋ ደፋፋ

The sound of the letter **D** is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ደ.

Here the first letter ደ is the **D1** and **D'** we had  
seen earlier.

D1, D' = ደ D2, Du = ደፑ D3, Di = ደፋ  
D4, Da = ደፋፋ D5, De = ደፊ D6, D = ደፋፋ  
D7, Do = ደ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ደ ደ ለ ኣ  
ዠ ዠ ሸ ሸ ሸ ከ ሸ and ቦ

This particular letter, ደ, helps us when we  
write some Oromigna words.

Here are the family members of ጃ.

ጃ ጃጃ ጃጂ ጃጋ ጃጋጃ ጃጋጅ ጃጋጅ

The sound of the letter **j** is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ጃ.

Here the first letter ጃ is the **j1** and **j'** we had  
seen earlier.

j1, j' = ጃ    j2, ju = ጃጃ    j3, ji = ጃጂ  
j4, ja = ጃጋ    j5, je = ጃጋጃ    j6, j = ጃጋጅ  
j7, jo = ጃጋጅ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ጃ ጃጃ ጃጂ ጃጋ  
ጃጋጃ ጃጋጅ ጃጋጅ and በ

ጃጃጃ ጃጃጃ ጃጃ-በ በጃጃ ጃጃጃ ጃጃ በጃ

Here are the family members of **ጸ**.

**ጸ ጸጥ ጸፊ ጸ ጸፌ ጸጽ ጸ**

The sound of the letter **ፍ** is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter **ጸ**.

Here the first letter **ጸ** is the **ፍ1** and **ፍ'** we had  
seen earlier.

S1, S' = **ጸ** S2, Su = **ጸጥ** S3, Si = **ጸፊ**  
S4, Sa = **ጸ** S5, Se = **ጸፌ** S6, S = **ጸጽ**  
S7, So = **ጸ**

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet **ጸ ፄ ፅ ፈ**  
**ለ ኣ ዠ ዡ ሸ ሰ ሹ ከ ሽ** and **ቦ**

**ጸጸ ኣጸ ጸለ ለጸ ቦለጸ**

Here are the family members of ᐃ.

ᐃ ᐃᐃ ᐃᐃ ᐃ ᐃᐃ ᐃᐃ ᐃ

The sound of the letter P is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ᐃ.

Here the first letter ᐃ is the P1 and P' we had  
seen earlier.

P1, P' = ᐃ P2, Pu = ᐃᐃ P3, Pi = ᐃᐃ  
P4, Pa = ᐃ P5, Pe = ᐃᐃ P6, P = ᐃᐃ  
P7, Po = ᐃ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ᐃ ᐃ ᐃᐃ ᐃᐃ  
ᐃ ᐃ ᐃ ᐃ ᐃ ᐃ ᐃ ᐃ ᐃ ᐃ and ᐃ

ᐃᐃ ᐃᐃ ᐃᐃ ᐃᐃ ᐃᐃ

You just finished the third set of two-legged letters very different from the first set!

This is how they sound.

d'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **dust** )

D'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **daa** tongue pressed with the roof of the mouth. No exact corresponding letter and sound in Latin )

j'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **just** )

S'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **tse** (teeth closed when with slight lip opening when air is released. No exact corresponding letter and sound in Latin )

P'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **P'** (strong lip friction when released. No exact corresponding letter and sound in Latin )

# LESSON 4

The fourth set of Ethiopic letters to study are three-legged letters.

ጠ ጩ ሐ

Here are the family members of ጠ.

ጠ ጡ ጬ ጣ ጮ ጥ ጰ

The sound of the letter ጠ is the sound of the Ethiopic letter ጠ. Here the first letter ጠ is the T1 and T' we had seen earlier.

T1, T' = ጠ T2, Tu = ጡ T3, Ti = ጬ  
T4, Ta = ጣ T5, Te = ጮ T6, T = ጥ  
T7, To = ጰ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ጠ ጸ ጹ ጺ  
ጻ ጼ ለ ኣ ዠ ዡ ሸ ሻ ሽ ከ ሽ and ቦ

ጠጡ ጠጣ ጥጥ ጠጣ ጢሻ ጠብደል

Here are the family members of **፩**.

**፩ ፩፩ ፩፪ ፩፫ ፩፬ ፩፭ ፩፮**

The sound of the letter **CH** is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter **፩**.

Here the first letter **፩** is the **CH1** and **CH'** we  
had seen earlier.

CH1, CH' = **፩** CH2, CHu = **፩፩** CH3, CHi = **፩፪**

CH4, CHa = **፩፫** CH5, CHe = **፩፬** CH6, CH = **፩፭**

CH7, CHo = **፩፮**

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet **፩ ፪ ፫ ፬ ፭ ፮ ፯ ፰ ፱ ፲ ፳ ፴ ፵ ፶ ፷ ፸ ፹ ፺ ፻** and **፻፶**

**፩፩፩ ፩፩፩ ፩፩፩ ፩፩፩ ፩፩፩ ፩፩፩ ፩፩፩ ፩፩፩ ፩፩፩ ፩፩፩**



Here are the family members of ሐ.

ሐ ሐ ሐ ሐ ሐ ሐ ሐ

A little historical perspective for you. A long time ago when Ethiopic inherited the alphabet from Geez, this letter had a distinct difference sound compared with a letter, ሀ, you will meet later. In time it has evolved into the same sound. Here, because you are meeting the sound for the first time, we will treat it as one of the other letters. It is just a reminder why the upper-case H is used than the lower-case h here.

There are three other letters that sound the same as this letter. And there are two of ሰ, ኢ, and ጸ. You have met these three already. When their identical sound letters come, there will be a reminder for you.

Here are the family members of **ሐ**.

**ሐ ሐ' ሐ<sub>u</sub> ሐ<sub>i</sub> ሐ<sub>a</sub> ሐ<sub>h</sub> ሐ**

This is the second **H** sound letter. It is added here to help you understand its existence in case you start reading Ethiopic and come across it. For now, it is represented as **H**.

Here the first letter **ሐ** is the **H1** and **H'** we had seen earlier.

H1, H' = **ሐ**

H2, Hu = **ሐ'**

H3, Hi = **ሐ<sub>u</sub>**

H4, Ha = **ሐ<sub>i</sub>**

H5, He = **ሐ<sub>a</sub>**

H6, H = **ሐ<sub>h</sub>**

H7, Ho = **ሐ**

**Remember this has the same sound as ኸ and U. We will skip the use of it for now.**

You just finished the fourth set! These are three-legged letters.

This is how they sound.

T' \_\_\_\_\_ ( **T'** this is a strong T where there is no exact corresponding letter and sound in Latin )

CH' \_\_\_\_\_ ( **CH'** (tongue pressed hard with the roof of the mouth. No exact corresponding letter and sound in Latin )

H \_\_\_\_\_ ( same as **ኸ ሀ & ኀ** )

Write the following in Latin

**ጠጠ**

**ጠፍፍ**

**ጫጫ**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 5

The fifth set of Ethiopic letters to study are two that open upwards. The first one **ሀ** has identical sound with **ኸ**, **ሐ** a we encountered earlier and **ኸ** which we will encounter later. This **ሀ** is the primary letter.

**ሀ      ሠ**

Here are the family members of **ሀ**.

**ሀ    ሁ   ሂ   ሃ   ሄ   ህ   ሖ**

The sound of the letter **ሀ** is the sound of the Ethiopic letter **ሀ**. Here the first letter **ሀ** is the **ሀ** and **ሀ'** we had seen earlier.

h1, h' = **ሀ**    h2, hu = **ሁ**    h3, hi = **ሂ** h4,  
ha = **ሃ**            h5, he = **ሄ**    h6, h = **ህ** h7,  
ho = **ሖ**

Write the Ethiopic alphabet **ሀ ሐ ጸ ጹ ጺ ጻ ጼ ጽ ለ አ ገ ዘ ሸ ሰ ኸ ከ ሸ** and **ቦ**

Here are the family members of **ሠ**.

**ሠ ሡ ሢ ሣ ሤ ሥ ሦ**

This is the second (s) sound letter. It is added here to help you understand its existence in case you start reading Ethiopic and come across it. For now, it is represented as (s).

Here the first letter **ሠ** is the (s)**1** and (s)' we had seen earlier.

(s)1, (s)' = **ሠ**

(s)2, (s)u = **ሡ**

(s)3, (s)i = **ሢ**

(s)4, (s)a = **ሣ**

(s)5, (s)e = **ሤ**

(s)6, (s) = **ሥ**

(s)7, (s)o = **ሦ**

**Remember this has the same sound as ሰ and we will skip the use of it for now.**

Congratulation for finishing the fifth set! These are two letters that open upwards.

This is how they sound.

h'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( heard )

(s)'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( sun )

Write these in Latin alphabet.

ሃሌ

አቤል

ሁሉ

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

አሣ

ሢሄድ

ደሣ

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# LESSON 6

The fifth set of Ethiopic letters to study are four closed circular shaped letters.

**ዐ ዑ ዒ ዓ**

Here are the family members of **ዐ**.

**ዐ ዑ ዒ ዓ ዔ ዖ ዗**

This is the second ዐ sound letter. It is added here to help you understand its existence in case you start reading Ethiopic and come across it. For now, it is represented as (A) but not use it. But this is a place holder and follow what is explained for **አ**.

(A)1, (A)' = **ዐ** (A)2, (A)u = **ዑ** (A)3, (A)i = **ዒ**  
(A)4, (A)a = **ዓ** (A)5, (A)e = **ዔ** (A)6, (A) = **ዖ**  
(A)7, (A)o = **዗**

**Remember this has the same sound as አ and we will skip the use of it for now.**

Here are the family members of **ወ**.

**ወ ዉ ዒ ዋ ይ ው ዎ**

The sound of the letter **w** is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter **ወ**.

Here the first letter **ወ** is the **w1** and **w'** we had  
seen earlier.

w1, w' = **ወ** w2, wu = **ዉ** w3, wi = **ዒ**  
w4, wa = **ዋ** w5, we = **ይ** w6, w = **ው**  
w7, wo = **ዎ**

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet **ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ**  
**ሐ ጪ ጠ ጰ ጸ ጹ ጺ ጻ ለ ኣ ኀ ኸ ከ ሸ ሻ ሽ ሾ** and  
**ቦ**

**ወዉ ዉኅ ወሽብ ውስብስብ ኣለው ሰው**



Here are the family members of መ.

መ መሐ መሊ መነ መቤ ም ሞ

The sound of the letter m is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter መ.

Here the first letter መ is the m1 and m' we had  
seen earlier.

m1, m' = መ m2, mu = መሐ m3, mi = መሊ  
m4, ma = መነ m5, me = መቤ m6, m = ም  
m7, mo = ሞ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabets መ ወ ዐ  
ሠ ሀ ሐ ጩ ጠ ጸ ጹ ጺ ጻ ለ ኣ ዠ ዡ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሸ  
and ቢ

መመሐ መነመነ ለመነ ለመደ ኣለመነ ኣምባ

Here are the family members of **ፀ**.

**ፀ   ፀ፡   ፍ   ፍ፡   ፍ።   ፐ   ፑ**

This is the second (**S**) sound letter. It is added here to help you understand its existence in case you start reading Ethiopic and come across it. For now, it is represented as (**S**).

Here the first letter **ፀ** is the (**S**)1 and (**S**)' we had seen earlier.

(S)1, (S)' = **ፀ**                      (S)2, (S)u                      = **ፀ፡**

(S)3, (S)i = **ፍ**                      (S)4, (S)a                      = **ፍ፡**

(S)5, (S)e = **ፍ።**                      (S)6, (S)                      = **ፐ**

(S)7, (S)o = **ፑ**

**Remember this has the same sound as ጸ and here we will skip the use of it for now.**

Excellent! you finished six sets! These are four closed circular shaped letters.

This is how they sound.

a' \_\_\_\_\_ ( at )

w' \_\_\_\_\_ ( walk )

m' \_\_\_\_\_ ( mug )

(S') \_\_\_\_\_ ( tse (teeth closed when with slight lip opening air is released\_. No exact corresponding letter and sound in Latin\_) )

Write these in Latin alphabet

ዓለም

ውብ

ለወሰ

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ፀሐ

ወጀድ

መደዳ

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Time to practice more.

Write the following in Ethiopic

leba

wusha

ama

aba

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

j'jaw

j'wjawa

a'jeb

w's'd'

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

s'l's'

a'b'd'

a'j'b'

m'mT'T

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

a'S'da

sab'

auau

m'ls

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Best news!!!

Once you master  
learning the alphabets,  
you will never make  
mistakes in reading  
and writing

ETHIOPIAN  
Languages

Here are your first sentences and phrases.

Write them in Latin alphabets and read them out loud for yourself.

ሀ) አዎ እሱ መጣ። \_\_\_\_\_

ለ) አበበ በላ። \_\_\_\_\_

ሐ) እሱ አጸዳ። \_\_\_\_\_

መ) እሱዋ ሞሰብ ውብ \_\_\_\_\_

ሰ) እሱ ደጅ አለ። \_\_\_\_\_

## Note:

1. We use h for  $\mathcal{U}$  and (H) for  $\mathfrak{H}$  and  $\mathcal{H}$ . You do not use the last three letters until you finish the first course.
2. Likewise, we use s for  $\mathfrak{N}$  and (s) and for  $\mathcal{W}$ . The same goes for  $\mathfrak{Z}$  that is represented with S and  $\theta$  represented with (S). The last set is a for  $\mathfrak{K}$  and (A) for  $\mathcal{O}$ . You do not use the last letter here until you finish the first course.
3. In general, there is a bracket around those representing letters we are not going to use here.

# LESSON 7

The seventh set are one-legged letters.

ነ ኘ ኙ ተ ቸ

Here are the family members of ኘ.

ነ ኑ ኔ ና ኑ ኙ ነ

The sound of the letter n is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ኘ. Here the first letter ኘ is the n1  
and n' we had seen earlier.

n1, n' = ኘ n2, nu = ኑ n3, ni = ኔ n4,  
na = ና n5, ne = ኑ n6, n = ኙ n7,  
no = ነ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ኘ ፀ መ ወ  
ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጪ ጠ ጸ ጹ ጺ ጻ ለ አ ዠ ዡ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ  
ቨ and ቦ

ነኑ ና ኑ እኔ በነነ ቡና ደቡብ



Here are the family members of ኘ.

ኘ ኘ ኘ ኘ ኘ ኘ ኘ

The sound of the letter N is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ኘ.

Here the first letter ኘ is the N1 and N' we had  
seen earlier.

N1, N' = ኘ N2, Nu = ኘ N3, Ni = ኘ  
N4, Na = ኘ N5, Ne = ኘ N6, N = ኘ  
N7, No = ኘ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabets ኘ ኘ ፀ መ  
ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጪ ጠ ጸ ጸ ጀ ደ ደ ለ ኣ ዠ ዠ ሸ ሰ ኸ  
ከ ሸ and ቦ

ኘኘ እኛ ቦኛ ቦነሱ ማኛ ዳኛ ነኝ

Here are the family members of ሻ.

ሻ ሻፑ ሻ፯ ሻ፱ ሻ፳ ሻ፳፯ ሻ፳፰

This is the second **H** sound letter. It is added here to help you understand its existence in case you start reading Ethiopic and come across it. For now, it is represented as **H**.

Here the first letter ሻ is the **H1** and **H'** we had seen earlier.

H1, H' = ሐ

H2, Hu = ሐፑ

H3, Hi = ሐ፯

H4, Ha = ሐ፱

H5, He = ሐ፳

H6, H = ሐ፳፯

H7, Ho = ሐ፳፰

**Remember this has the same sound as ኸ and U. We will skip the use of it for now.**

Here are the family members of ተ.

ተ ቱ ቲ ታ ቱ ት ቶ

The sound of the letter t is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ተ.

Here the first letter ተ is the t1 and t' we had  
seen earlier.

t1, t' = ተ      t2, tu = ቱ      t3, ti = ቲ  
t4, ta = ታ      t5, te = ቱ      t6, t = ት  
t7, to = ቶ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabets ተ ገ ኘ ነ  
ፀ መ ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጪ ጠ ጸ ጸ ጀ ጰ ጺ ለ አ ዠ ዘ  
ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሸ and ቢ

ተቱ ተኛ ታታ አናት አባት ሰባት ቡቱቱ

Here are the family members of ቸ.

ቸ ቹ ቺ ቻ ቼ ቾ ቿ

The sound of the letter ch is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ቸ.

Here the first letter ቸ is the ch1 and ch' we had  
seen earlier.

ch1, ch' = ቸ ch2, chu = ቹ ch3, chi = ቺ  
ch4, cha = ቻ ch5, che = ቼ ch6, ch = ቾ  
ch7, cho = ቿ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabets ቸ ተ ኀ  
ኘ ነ ፀ መ ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጪ ጠ ጸ ጺ ጼ ጻ ለ አ ዠ  
ዘ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሸ and ቢ

ቸቹ ታቸ ነቸ ናት ቻሌ ተሻለ ቸሎታ

The seventh set is finished! These are five one-legged letters.

This is how they sound.

n'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **nut** )

N'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **Ñ** (the back of the tongue presses on the back of the mouth roof more like Spanish signor. No exact corresponding letter and sound in Latin) )

H'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **Heard** )

t'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **turf** )

ch'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( **church** )

Read the following:

ወደ ቤቴ መጣሁ። አባቴ ከደጅ አለ። ቡና ጠጣ።

Ask the Ethiopian speaker ( Ethiopic user ) next to you to translate what you read next.

እኔ ቡና እጠጣለሁ።

አንተስ ምን ትወዳለህ?

እሱዋ ምን ትጠጣለች?

ጨዋታ እወዳለሁ።

ወደ እኔ ና።

እናቴን እወዳታለሁ።

እሱዋ አጨበጨበች።

# LESSON 8

Set # eight are a little different one-legged letters.

ቀ ቆ የ ገ ገግ ፒ

Here are the family members of ቀ.

ቀ ቁ ቂ ቃ ቄ ቅ ቆ

The sound of the letter q is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ቀ. Here the first letter ቀ is the  
q1 and q1' we had seen earlier.

q1, q' = ቀ q2, qu = ቁ q3, qi = ቂ q4,  
qa = ቃ q5, qe = ቄ q6, q = ቅ q7,  
qo = ቆ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ቀ ቸ ተ ገ  
ኘ ነ ፀ መ ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጪ ጠ ጸ ጺ ጼ ጻ ጼ ለ አ ዠ  
ዘ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሸ and በ

ቀቁ ዕቃ ቀውስ ጭቃ አጩበጩበ ቆላ

Here are the family members of ቆ.

ቆ ቆ ቆ ቆ ቆ ቆ ቆ

The sound of the letter Q is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ቆ.

Here the first letter ቆ is the Q1 and Q' we had  
seen earlier.

Q1, Q' = ቆ Q2, Qu = ቆ Q3, Qi = ቆ  
Q4, Qa = ቆ Q5, Qe = ቆ Q6, Q = ቆ  
Q7, Qo = ቆ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ቆ ቀ ቸ ተ  
ኀ ኘ ነ ፀ መ ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጪ ጠ ጸ ጸ ጀ ጰ ጳ ለ ኣ  
ዠ ዘ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሽ and ቢ

This particular letter, ቆ, helps us when we  
write some Tigrigna words.



Here are the family members of የ.

የ      ዩ      ዪ      ያ      ዬ      ይ      ዮ

The sound of the letter y is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter የ.

Here the first letter የ is the y1 and y' we had  
seen earlier.

y1, y' = የ    y2, yu = ዩ    y3, yi = ዪ    y4,  
ya = ያ        y5, ye = ዬ    y6, y = ይ    y7,  
yo = ዮ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet የ ቆ ቀ ቸ  
ተ ጎ ጥ ነ ፀ መ ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጪ ጠ ጸ ጺ ጀ ጰ ጳ ለ  
ኣ ዠ ዡ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሽ and ቢ

የዩ      እያዩ    ነይ      ነው ወይ?    ተይ    ተው  
የወደቀ      የጸደቀ      አስተያየት

Here are the family members of ገ.

ገ ጉ ጊ ጋ ጌ ግ ጎ

The sound of the letter ጊ is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ገ.

Here the first letter ገ is the ጊ1 and ጊ' we had  
seen earlier.

g1, g' = ገ g2, gu = ጉ g3, gi = ጊ g4,  
ga = ጋ g5, ge = ጌ g6, g = ግ g7,  
go = ጎ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ገ የ ቆ ቀ  
ቸ ተ ጎ ኘ ነ ፀ መ ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጩ ጠ ጸ ጺ ጼ ጺ ደ  
ለ ኣ ዠ ዘ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሽ and ቢ

ገጉ የግድ በግድ ጉዳይ ቆላደጋ ተጋደመች  
ፀጋ ፀጋዬ ፀጌ ጥግ ተጠጋ ተጠጊ





# LESSON 9

Set # nine are sitting flat letters.

4 6

Here are the family members of  $\mathcal{L}$ .

4 5 6 7 8 9 0

The sound of the letter **r** is the sound of the Ethiopic letter **ረ**. Here the first letter **ረ** is the **r1** and **r'** we had seen earlier.

$$\begin{array}{lll} r1, r' & = & \mathfrak{L} \quad r2, ru = \mathfrak{R} \quad r3, ri = \mathfrak{L} \\ r4, ra & = & \mathfrak{L} \quad r5, re = \mathfrak{L} \quad r6, r = \mathfrak{C} \\ r7, ro & = & \mathfrak{C} \end{array}$$

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ረ ፐ ሻ ገ  
የ ቆ ቀ ቸ ተ ጎ ኘ ነ ፀ መ ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጪ ጠ ጰ ጸ  
ጀ ደ ደ ለ ኣ ዠ ዡ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሽ and ቦ  
ረሩ ሩጫ ቦረረ እፊቻ ኣጭቦረቦረ

Here are the family members of ፈ.

ፈ ፋ ፊ ፋ ፌ ፍ ፎ

The sound of the letter f is the sound of the  
Ethiopic letter ፈ.

Here the first letter ፈ is the f1 and f' we had  
seen earlier.

f1, f' = ፈ f2, fu = ፋ f3, fi = ፊ  
f4, fa = ፋ f5, fe = ፌ f6, f = ፍ  
f7, fo = ፎ

Practice writing the Ethiopic alphabet ፈ ረ ፐ ገ  
ገ የ ቐ ቀ ቸ ተ ጎ ገ ነ ፀ መ ወ ዐ ሠ ሀ ሐ ጩ ጠ ጸ  
ጸ ጀ ደ ደ ለ ኣ ዠ ዘ ሸ ሰ ሽ ከ ሽ and በ

ፈፋ ፈፊ ፈፈ ፈፋ መጣን በለጠ  
ፈጠነ ምጥን መጣ ገበጣ አልመጣም ሄደ

You have done all nine sets! These last ones are sitting flat.

This is how they sound.

r'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( rut )

f'      \_\_\_\_\_ ( fur )

Read the following

**አባቴ እና እናቴ ከሩቅ ሀገር ነው የመጡት።**

**ኢትዮጵያን እወዳለሁ።**

**አዲስ አበባ የኢትዮጵያ ዋና ከተማ ናት።**



ፆፊያ





ከ ደ ይ

ከ በ ባ





ጢስ ነባይ

eu p

---

---

how::

---

*This book belongs to*

---

---